FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 AUGUST 1983

Lebanon

Political Developments — A proposal to suspend the Lebanese-Israeli agreement except for security provisions is being considered, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Military-Security Situation — More than 10 artillery shells hit Beirut airport, a U.S. Marine post, and near Israeli positions east of the airport, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. The shells were fired from Druze positions south of Beirut during continued fighting between the Lebanese Army and Druze forces, the Voice of Lebanon asserted. In a separate development, Defense Minister Moshe Arens promised that Israel will "look after" the Lebanese Druze because of the "special concern" felt by Israeli Druze, Jerusalem radio reported.

Syrian forces are prepared to stay in Lebanon a long time, an IDF brigadier general stated to a Jerusalem radio correspondent. The Syrian fortifications on the Golan Heights are better and deeper than before the 1973 war, but the IDF has the answers to this, the general added.

Meanwhile, PFLP-General Command leader Ahmad Jabril "indirectly" accused PLO armed forces deputy commander in chief Khalil al-Wazir of engineering the explosions in northern Lebanon, including the detonation near a Tripoli mosque, Voice of Lebanon reported. The Syrian paper *Tishrin* linked the Ba'labakk explosions with the Damascus visit by U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane, asserting that the bombs were aimed at exerting pressure on Syria, SANA reported in its press review. Referring to a meeting between former Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Phalangist leader Pierre al-Jumayyil, *Tishrin* stated that Sharon may have been one of the main planners of the bombings.

McFarlane Mission — Middle East envoy McFarlane arrived in Beirut from Amman after holding talks with King Husayn, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Husayn affirmed Jordan's support for Lebanese unity and for strengthening Lebanon's "total territorial sovereignty," Amman radio stated. Official sources cited by Beirut radio stressed Lebanon's desire for an agreement on the withdrawal of all forces. Lebanon will not agree to any state, particularly Syria, placing obstacles in the way of the Israeli withdrawal for any reason, the sources asserted. Syria's declared rejection of the withdrawal question is only "tactical," the sources reasoned, because Syria requested this issue be put on the agenda of the meeting with McFarlane.

PLO Affairs

Dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha is under house arrest in Damascus and has been replaced by Colonel Abu Khalid, according to diplomatic sources cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Palestinian sources told the PRC press agency XINHUA that differences developed between Col Muragha and Colonel Nimr Salih because Muragha favored a cease-fire and an end to the Fatah dispute.

In the Al-Biqa', Syrian special units besieged Jdita and ordered Fatah forces to hand over their weapons, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

In an interview broadcast by Austrian television, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat reiterated his willingness to hold talks with Jordan if approved by a majority in the PLO. 'Arafat also stated that the PLO is ready to negotiate a POW exchange with the Israelis.

Libya-Chad

The army of former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei has captured the town of Faya-Largeau in northern Chad, a spokesman for the Transitional National Union Government Unity claimed according to AFP. Earlier, Paris radio had reported that President Hissein Habre's forces were pinned down in the town by Libyan bombing. Meanwhile, "hundreds" of U.S. soldiers are crossing into Chad from Sudan and the two AWACS planes currently in Egypt will join the other two AWACS ordered to Sudan, JANA claimed citing a "U.S. TV station."

JANA again denied any Libyan military intervention in Chad and denounced "false" reports that Libyan forces shelled Faya-Largeau. If there are any foreign forces intervening in Chad, JANA asserted, the United States, France, and Zaire are to blame.

Meanwhile, France decided to send military instructors to Chad, Paris radio announced. The decision falls within the framework of the 1976 military agreements which exclude direct French participation in war operations, Defense Minister Charles Hernu emphasized. The French force will also be involved with telecommunications which should enable the data from the U.S. AWACS planes to be received in Ndjamena. Hernu stated that "everything the Libyans do, we will do" with the exception of bombing operations, the radio added.

In another development, a high-level Libyan military delegation began talks with Soviet officials in Moscow, according to AFP. Details of the talks were not given and monitored Libyan and Soviet media have not been observed to report on the talks.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali reaffirmed Egypt's support for "the legitimate regime" in Chad against any foreign intervention while President Husni Mubarak stressed that Egypt is making all efforts to help the two sides to overcome their differences by urging them to use reason and logic, MENA reports stated. Meanwhile, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali met with Chadian Interior Minister Tahara Guinassou in Ndjamena where he received an "urgent message" from Chadian President Hissein Habre for President Mubarak, MENA noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian forces liberated two strategic heights north of Mehran and the slopes of another, killing more than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers and capturing large quantities of arms and equipment, a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio stated. Iraqi forces south of Mehran were also "severely crushed," the communique added. Although an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that "heavy losses" were inflicted on the Iranian troops in the Mehran sector, a later radio report cited a military spokesman as saying that the Iraqi forces had completed a "withdrawal" to the international borders "after completing their objectives." Meanwhile, the commander of the Iraqi II Army Corps told INA that President Saddam Husayn had personally commanded the military operations in the Mehran area during which "more than 70 percent" of the Iranian forces in the area were wiped out.

In another development, an Iranian official told IRNA that the Iraqi forces had used "poisonous bombs" in the northern sector, causing the hospitalizing of 13 Iranian soldiers.

Pilgrimage Dispute

Describing preparations for the pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, two Iranian officials told IRNA that if pilgrims had to spend their nights in mosques or in tents, it would be "unpleasant" for the Saudi authorities.

Meanwhile, a Saudi report stressed that Iranian pilgrims are welcome as long as they adhere to Saudi laws, according to Riyadh radio. If the pilgrims come for political purposes or to demonstrate, the authorities will show no leniency, the report added.

Afghanistan

Soviet helicopters bombed an Afghan barracks in Ghazni Province 30 July by mistake, Western diplomatic sources cited by AFP claimed. The Soviet forces thought the barracks had fallen to rebels, the sources added. Meanwhile, Soviet forces dropped napalm on a region in Helmand Province, Tehran radio's Turkish service announced.

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Gandhi Meets With Sri Lankan Envoy 10 August

BK100916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Aug 83

[Text] The special emissary from Sri Lanka, Mr H.W. Jayewardene, had an 80-minute meeting with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, in New Delhi today. The emissary has been sent by President Jayewardene for talks with Indian leaders on the happenings in Sri Lanka.

Approached by newsmen after the meeting, Mr H.W. Jayewardene said his talks with Mrs Gandhi were good. He, however, declined to divulge what was discussed. In reply to a question, he said India is doing a lot for Sri Lanka. The relief supplies were coming in and are reaching the displaced people for whom these are meant.

Mr Jayewardene is also scheduled to meet the external affairs minister, the defense minister, and the finance minister.

Rao Says PRC Border Dispute 'Not Near Solution'

BK050851 Hong Kong AFP in English 0632 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 5 (AFP) — The Sino-Indian border dispute, the main impediment towards better relations between the two Asian neighbours, was "not near a solution," the Indian external affairs minister said today.

P.V. Narasimha Rao told Parliament that after three rounds of talks on the border dispute, the two sides had only reiterated their known stand.

According to Indian records, China was in illegal possession of 37,500 square km (14,500 square miles) of Indian territory to the northeast of Kashmir. And the Chinese claim that India was occupying 129,000 square km (50,000 square miles) of its land in India's northeast.

Mr Rao told members of the right wing Janata Party that China agreed to maintain status quo in the eastern sector in exchange for India's present line of control in the western sector.

"But we are opposed to such arrangement and our opposition has been reiterated," Mr Rao told the members.

The next round of talks is likely to take place later this year.

The two neighbours fought a border war in 1962. Since then their relations were strained. It was only in April 1976 that the two countries agreed to renew diplomatic relations.

The common frontier between India and China stretches up to 3,862 km or 2,400 miles.

Defense Chief Assures Readiness To Meet Air Attack

BK051119 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] The Lok Sabha was assured today that the country is fully prepared to meet the threat of air attack from any neighboring country. The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, informed the House that Jaguar, Mirage, and advanced version of MiG aircrafts have been inducted to strengthen the Air Force. He said India is unhappy on the reported supply of Harpoon missiles by the United States to the Pakistan Navy. We will certainly try to match this with whatever measures necessary. He denied having any information about the reported sale of Vulcan air defense system to Pakistan.

Replying to the main question about the reported sale of 100 F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, Mr Venkataraman said no authentic information is available in this regard. He assured the members that full defense preparedness is being maintained at all times to meet any eventuality.

Lok Dal, BJP Parties Agree To Form 'Alliance'

BK081602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] The Lok Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party have decided to work together through a national democratic alliance. The Lok Dal chief, Mr Charan Singh, and the Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr Vajpayee, announced this decision in a joint statement.

It says that a steering committee will soon be formed to coordinate the activities of the two parties both in and outside Parliament and the state legislatures. The alliance is to have a joint bloc in Parliament and the state asemblies.

The general secretaries of the two parties — Mr S.N. Mishra and Mr L.K. Advani — disclosed at a press conference in New Delhi that talks are going on with some likeminded parties to join the alliance, but they did not identify the parties.

During elections, the two parties will not put up candidates against each other. The alliance, they said, will adopt a Gandhan approach to solve various social and economic problems.

Reportage on Thai Prime Minister's Visit

Prem Arrives 6 August

BK061716 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The Thai prime minister, General Prem Tinsulanon, was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The two leaders embraced each other and warmly shook hands.

Others present at the airport to greet the Thai prime minister included the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, vice chief of the army staff, chiefs of the naval and air staffs, federal ministers, councillors, members of the diplomatic corps, and high civil and military officials. The Thai prime minister was presented a bouquet by two small children. He was given a 19-gun salute and presented a guard of honor by a contingent drawn from the three services. The national anthems of the two countries were also played.

Zia Addresses Banquet for Prem

BK071117 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said his talks with Thai Prime Minister Tinsulanon have once again confirmed that their views on all matters of mutual concern are identical and their friendship is based on strong foundations of mutual trust and confidence. He was speaking at a banquet hosted by him in honor of the Thai prime minister at the presidency in Islamabad last night.

The president said the two countries share similar views not only on bilateral relations but also on international issues. Both countries oppose the use of force and aggression, expansionism, and hegemonism. He said we uphold the right of all nations to determine their political and social systems according to their own choice and without any outside intervention or pressure.

The president said foreign military intervention in Afghanistan and Kampuchea has trampled upon accepted international principles and deprived the affected nations of their nonaligned and independent status. He said Pakistan is making sincere efforts for political resolution of the Afghanistan problem. Pakistan believes in the proclaimed intentions of the Soviet leaders regarding withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and is willing to cooperate with them within the framework of recognized principles for the implementation of their intentions, the president added.

Speaking about Pakistan's efforts to establish good relations with neighboring countries, the president referred to the recent foreign ministers conference in New Delhi and expressed hope that this process will foster mutual trust and help strengthen and consolidate regional and international peace and stability. He said Paksitan has proposed a nonaggression pact with India and expects a positive response to this.

President Zia said Pakistan and Thailand, which are bound together with extremely deep and long-standing ties of friendship, are closely cooperating with each other for mutual benefit, regional peace, and international harmony.

In his speech, Thai Prime Minister Tinsulanon said it is a matter of great regret that the crises in Afghanistan and Kampuchea are still unresolved despite strong world public opinion against illegal military occupation. He said in both countries the foreign armed intervention and continued occupation reflect the dangerous trend whereby powerful nations can invade their weaker neighbors and install illegal regimes. He said Thailand, which has shouldered the burden of Indochinese refugees on humanitarian grounds, fully understands the burden Pakistan has to bear in providing shelter to millions of Afghan refugees.

Referring to identical views between Pakistan and Thailand, the Thai prime minister said the relationship between the two countries are based on deep feelings of sympathy and understanding, and that is why Pakistan and Thailand have been cooperating with each other at the United Nations and are scrupulously complying with principles and objectives of the UN Charter and international law.

Earlier, the Thai prime minister and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had indepth talks in Islamabad yesterday on important international and regional issues besides ways and means to further strengthen bilateral relations. The problems of Afghanistan and Kampuchea figured prominently during the talks, which lasted 2 hours. The president explained the basic principles of Pakistan's foreign policy. He also briefed the Thai prime minister on progress made at the Geneva talks on Afghanistan, the Middle East situation, the question of Palestine and Pakistan's viewpoint, and the regional situation.

The Thai prime minister explained his country's foreign and economic policies. He said Thailand is promoting friendly relations with other countries on the basis of peaceful coexistence.

The two leaders discussed ways and means to increase bilateral cooperation, especially in trade and economic fields. Special attention was given to agricultural [words indistinct] educational, and cultural fields. They also discussed the narcotics problem and exchanged experiences and information for dealing with this scourge.

The president invited the Thai king and queen to visit Pakistan. He also invited the Thai prime minister to pay a longer visit to Pakistan.

BANGKOK POST Reports on Talks

BK080304 Bangkok Bangkok Post in English 8 Aug 83 p 3

[From Yuwadi Thanyasiri]

[Text] Islamabad — Pakistan's President Mohammed Ziaul Haq has pledged to lobby for support among Islamic nations in the

United Nations for a peaceful settlement to the Kampuchean problem in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Government spokesman Dr Trairong Suwankhiri told Thai reporters at a press briefing here yesterday that the pledge was made during private talks between President Zia and Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon on Saturday evening.

The talks centred on Indochinese affairs, especially Vietnam's military intervention in Kampuchea, said a Pakistani Government spokesman. He added that General Prem gave Zia an indepth briefing on the security situation in the Indochinese region.

President Zia told Gen Prem about the status of political talks aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem, said the spokesman, adding that there were no outstanding problems between the two countries which have enjoyed friendly relations for decades.

Dr Trairong said the two leaders also discussed the question of narcotics control and President Zia was briefed on Thailand's crop replacement programme.

He added that Pakistan had welcomed Thailand's proposal for a joint fishing venture during talks on the issue on Saturday.

Meanwhile Dr Manatsaphat Chuto, director-general of Economic Department, said that the two countries had agreed to conclude a trade agreement which has been long overdue.

The agreement is expected to be signed at a later date, he added.

Gen Prem yesterday visited the Buddhist archaeological ruins in Taxila as well as an arms and ammunition plant in Wah and the multi-million dollar Tarbela hydro-electric project.

He was presented with a sub-machinegun during the visit to the arms factory.

Planning visits to Afghan refugee camps near Afghanistan and to the Khyber Pass were cancelled because of the time constraints.

The Prime Minister today flies to Bangladesh for the last leg of his South Asian tour.

Delegation Departs 8 August

BK080710 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister of Thailand General Prem Tinsulanon said Pakistan and Thailand extend full support to a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan and Kampuchean issues in accordance with the principles of concerned UN resolutions which call for complete withdrawal of foreign forces from these countries. He was addressing a news confernece in Rawalpindi this morning prior to his departure at the end of his 3-day visit to Pakistan.

On bilateral relations, he said his successful visit to Pakistan and constructive dialogue with President GeneralMohammad Ziaul Haq have further stabilized these relations.

The Thai prime minister was accorded a warm sendoff when he left Islamabad this morning. President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq saw him off at the airport.

Zia Comments on Local Bodies' Powers, Afghan Talks

BK091539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that local bodies will at no stage be used as an electoral college. He said this while talking to newsmen at Karachi Airport this evening. He said the local bodies will continue to discharge their present responsibilities and they will be given more powers.

Answering a question on whether he will announce the future political structure for the country in his address to the Federal Advisory Council on 12 August, the president said for this you will have to wait until 14 August. He said generally he addresses the inaugural session of the Federal Advisory Council, however, this time, he was out of the country when the council's session began. This is why he has decided to address the concluding session of the council.

About the UN-supervised indirect talks in Geneva on a solution to the Afghanistan issue, he said sufficient progress has been made in this connection, and the personal representative of the UN secretary general, Mr Cordovez, will visit the capitals of the region in the near future.

Foreign Minister Departs for Bangladesh Visit

BK100306 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Aug 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Karachi this morning for Dhaka on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh.

NEPAL

Reportage on Thai Prime Minister's Visit

BK060336 Bangkok Bangkok Post in English 6 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Thailand and Nepal shared identical views on the need for political solutions to the Kampuchean and Afghan problems during talks between Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and Nepalese Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand on Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry reported yesterday that the two premiers also emphasised the need for patience in the face of the intransigence of the foreign forces occupying Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

Thailand and Nepal shared the same views on all regional and international issues of interest and concern to them, the ministry said.

It said the talks, held in a "very cordial atmosphere," took place after Gen Prem's arrival in the Himalayan kingdom on the first leg of a tour of three South Asian countries.

Both Gen Prem and Premier Chand remained firm on the principles guiding the political settlement of the conflicts in Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

After the talks, Gen Prem was received in audience by King Birendra of Nepal. Also present were Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, Secretary-General of the Prime Minister's Office Lt-Gen Chantharakhup Sirisut and Thai Ambassador to Nepal Phong Bua-iam.

Later, at a state banquet, Premier Chand said Nepal and Thailand have upheld the principle that the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea and Afghanistan should be respected and their people should be free to determine their own forms of government without outside pressures or intervention.

Mr Chand described Gen Prem's visit as "a historic landmark in Nepalese-Thai relations."

Gen Prem visited the ancient Nepalese town of Lumpini, 230 km west of Katmandu, as a place of worship for Buddhists.

Gen Prem and his 19-member party are scheduled to leave Nepal today for a three-day visit to Pakistan. The Prime Minister will later visit Bangladesh before returning to Bangkok on August 10.

Prem Addresses Civic Reception

BK061202 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Their majesties the king and queen had a quiet dinner with the Thai premier, General Prem Tinsulanon, at the Narayanhiti royal palace this evening.

The prime minister of Thailand, Gen Prem Tinsulanon, addressing the civic reception given in his honor at the city hall in Katmandu today, said Nepal has been meeting the process of modernization with [words indistinct] than most societies in the developing world. I have been inspired by the cultural richness of your civilization and the splendid results of the creative spirit of the Nepali people, Gen Prem said in his reply to the address of civic reception.

Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand was also present on the occasion. On the occasion Pradhan Pancha [Mayor] (Kamal Chitrakar) presented a statue of Lord Buddha to the Thai prime minister.

Prem Holds News Conference

BK070922 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] At 1030 Nepal time today, Prime Minister General Tinsulanon held a new conference at his official residence in Nepal. He said as his official visit to Nepal is nearing the end, on his own behalf and his delegation's behalf, he wished to express genuine appreciation for the warm reception and friendship accorded by the Nepalese Government. He and his delegation are grateful for the audience and dinner granted by the Nepalese king and queen.

The prime minister said the major purpose of his visit is to strengthen Thai-Nepalese relations. The close ties between the Thai and Nepalese royal families ensure that good relations and cooperation between the two countries will continue. Another purpose of the visit is to expand cooperation in various fields with Nepal in conformity with Thailand's policy of promoting economic and technical cooperation with developing countries, which is reflected in the composition of his delegation. The meetings between the members of the Thai private sector and the Nepalese counterparts will certainly benefit both countries. The meetings between the Thai delegation and the Nepalese prime minister and officials which took place during the 3 previous days were very fruitful and brought new initiatives.

The two sides exchanged views on various issues, including international issues. The views of both sides on the international issues discussed were generally identical. The discussions also covered their experiences in national and social development. They agreed that the United Nations must continue to maintain regulations, laws, and fairness — qualities the importance of which has diminished due to expansionism practiced by the superpowers. The Thai and Nepalese sides also discussed regional conflicts affecting peace, stability, security, and the well-being of the world's people. They agreed that peaceful settlement of these conflicts is urgently needed. Thailand fully supports the Nepalese king's proposal that his country be declared a zone of peace. This corresponds with the ASEAN countries' desire to transform Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality.

In any event, Thailand believes that the current contest between the superpowers in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and outside does not contribute to the establishment of zones of peace in these

regions. For this reason, Thailand has firmly opposed illegal occupation of one country by another, such as the cases of Afghanistan and Kampuchea. Therefore, the Thai Government has fully supported the UN resolutions concerning the two issues and all measures that will lead to their peaceful settlement.

On the Kampuchean issue, the Nepalese Government vigorously supported the relevant UN resolutions on Kampuchea,calling for total Vietnamese pullout from Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination. The Nepalese Government also confirmed its continued support for ASEAN's efforts to settle the Kampuchean problem.

The prime minister said this visit has been successful. He has invited the Nepalese prime minister to visit Thailand at a convenient time. The Nepalese prime minister has accepted the invitation in principle.

The prime minister then allowed questions by the attending newsmen. Among the significant questions was ASEAN's flexibility regarding dialogue with Vietnam on the Kampuchean problem. The prime minister said Thailand and ASEAN have always been flexible, but this flexibility is based on the framework of the UN resolutions calling for total Vietnamese withdrawal from Kampuchea. Asked about Thailand's measures which might improve current Thai-Vietnamese relations, the prime minister said Thailand has a policy of being friendly with all countries, including Vietnam. Problems in current Thai-Vietnamese relations stem from Vietnam's refusal to withdraw its soldiers from Kampuchea in accordance with the UN resolutions. Once Vietnam withdraws its troops from Kampuchea, Thai-Vietnamese relations will improve instantly.

SRI LANKA

Presidential Secretariat Issues Communique

BK091445 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1255 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Communique issued 9 August by Presidential Secretariat]

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene, addressing the government parliamentary group meeting today, said that the rehabilitation of damaged properties law, which will give legal status to the Rehabilitation of Properties and Industries Authority, REPIA, set up under the emergency regulations, will meet all needs of rehabilitation.

Firstly, it will see that there was no speculative buying by unscrupulous capitalists and that the present tenants were not displaced by similarly minded landlords. Secondly, it will provide the finances required for reconstruction. Thirdly, where these properties needed [illegible]n planning in the large devastated area, it will be easier to do it under the authority. This aspect will be handled by the urban development authority under the prime minister. Fourthly, the government money could not be pumped into [words indistinct] of damaged properties [words indistinct] reconstruction of their ownership. If government funds are used, there has to be a partnership with the government.

President Jayewardene said that for these purposes all land mentioned in the acts have been vested in the state and [words indistinct]. REPIA will get information from the various authorities and carry out investigation with regard to damaged property, of unemployed persons, of insurance payments, and will be acting directly under the president.

The chairman of REPIA, the former commander of Navy, Rear Admiral A.W.S. Perera, will make a statement very soon giving these details.

President Jayewardene also told the members of Parliament that the Indian Government of Mrs Indira Gandhi had expressed its firm support for the Government of Sri Lanka in the handling of the present crisis. He said that Mrs Indira Gandhi appreciates that the J.R. Jayewardene government had been freely elected by the people of Sri Lanka and any assistance to Sri Lanka would be supplied only through the government. He said that there is a (?protest) in Tamil Nadu where there was support for the Peramuna [People's Liberation Front]. This, however, did not affect the central government's stand vis-a-vis the Sri Lanka Government.

President Jayewardene also referred to a campaign by a few thousand people in Tamil Nadu, who walked from Madurai City to Rameswaram hoping to come by boat to Sri Lanka. However, as soon as the marchers reach the ports of Tamil Nadu they would be stopped by the authority of the central Government of India, which had been quite firm in its assurance to prevent marchers leaving Indian soil. If they reach our shores, we would deal with them. I do not think this would be necessary, said the president.

The president said it was evident that the damage caused was larger in Colombo, which was first attacked, and then Kegalle, Kandy, and Badulla. This showed that they had done [words indistinct] for some time. Among the other reasons for creating these disturbances was to promote a conflict between the central Indian Government and the Government of Sri Lanka. This was evident when even the residences of the Indian High Commission personnel here were attacked.

The president said that all police stations have been ordered to take into custody all those who committed offenses, and we requested all concerned to give information about them at the earliest to the nearest police station. The president said that we hope to take legal action against those who are found to be (?doing wrong). We will also appoint new high court judges to expedite the cases.

As regards to the Tamil United Liberation Front, the president said that the members of Parliament would not be able to be members if they did not abandon the Eelam [separate Tamil land] policy. He said that any future discussion with them too would be on the basis that they have dropped the Eelam policy.

President Jayewardene said that thousands of innocent people had suffered and their tale of [word indistinct] is very grave. Therefore, we should be cautious not to allow these things to

happen again and begin rehabilitation work immediately. We would also start the rehabilitation work after obtaining all the data regarding the properties damaged and the cost.

MP's Take Oath; TULF Members Not Present

BK091455 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] All members present in Parliament this afternoon took their oath again under the 6th Amendment to the Constitution. Tamil United Liberation Front members were not present in the Parliament today.

Members who took their oath included those from the United National Party, Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka. [as heard]

The oath is: Pledge to protect the Constitution of Sri Lanka, the country's territorial integrity, and to work against any division of the country.

The speaker rejected as irrelevant a no-confidence motion by a member of Parliament from Medawachchiya, Maithripala Senenayake, on behalf of the opposition.

AFP: Tamil Parliamentary Party Keeping Options Open

BK100803 Hong Kong AFP in English 0736 GMT 10 Aug 83

[By Neville de Silva — AFP prefaces item with note: "This dispatch was subject to censorship."]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug. 10 (AFP) — The main Tamil parliamentary party was keeping its options open today while awaiting moves to outlaw it under the ban on separatist parties, a party spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here.

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) boycotted Parliament yesterday when MP's took an oath to disavow separatism and defend the country's unitary constitution.

This oath was introduced after the worst ethnic riots in the country's history had claimed an estimated 315 lives and left millions of dollars worth of damage to industry, commerce and private property.

A TULF parliamentarian said that the party's nine-member Politburo would probably meet over the weekend to map out strategy in the event of court action and also to discuss its role in Parliament.

The TULF parliamentary group decided Sunday to boycott Parliament which allows members to absent themselves without leave for a maximum period of three months after which they forfeit their seats.

The speaker of Parliament, M.A. Bakeer Marker, told the House yesterday that he would not recognise any member unless he had taken the new oath.

Most of the 16 TULF parliamentarians are in the north where they were attending a party convention when the violence erupted.

Finance Minister Appeals for International Aid

BK091231 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Minister of Finance and Planning Ronnie de Mel yesterday appealed for urgent international help to rehabilitate thousands of people affected by the recent violence. The finance minister told foreign ambassadors and representatives of international aid agencies that in the short term they had to assist about 100,000 persons. There were about 80,000 who were in the camps and another 20,000 who were outside the camps.

Mr De Mel disclosed that more than 100 factories, some of them manufacturing textiles for export, had been damaged. The loss amounted to around 2 billion rupees. This had made thousands of people jobless.

The minister emphasized that the need was to rehabilitate the victims immediately to ensure a medium-and long-term recovery of the country and to restore confidence in Sri Lanka internationally.

Several countries and organizations are providing humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka. The first of five planeloads of relief supplies provided by the U.S. Government arrived in Colombo yesterday. The consignment included 500 rolls of heavy reinforced plastic sheeting to be used for construction of temporary shelters. This was handed over by U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka John H. Reed to Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Tyronne Fernando. Another consignment is due today. The package is worth about 1.5 million U.S. dollars. The American Embassy in Colombo has already made available 55,000 U.S. dollars for relief work. Private American voluntary organizations, assisted by U.S. aid, have contributed substantial amounts of food and medicine.

The Australian Government will contribute a further 1.5 million rupees for the provision of emergency relief. The donation will bring the total value of Australia's contribution to 3.5 million rupees.

The British Government is giving 50,000 pounds sterling and the British Red Cross has donated 5,000 pounds sterling. UNICEF is gifting 100,000 U.S. dollars worth of drugs. The (Moraz) Islamic Cultural Home has contributed 50,000 rupees.

Premadasa on Redevelopment of Damaged Areas

BK090449 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Planned modern city centers will emerge from the debris of devastation caused by the recent disturbances in the affected areas of Colombo and the suburbs. Prime Minister R. Premadasa, in his capacity as the minister for local government, housing, and construction, has directed the Urban Development

Authority [UDA] to start work immediately on the preparation of plan for reconstruction and redevelopment of the damaged areas conforming to the modern standards.

The redevelopment will take place simultaneously with the development of the urban areas already in operation. Damaged areas will be redeveloped keeping to contemporary concepts in city development so as to ensure cleaner and greener city centers. The prime minister has instructed the UDA to ensure green belts, open spaces, neat sidewalks, and improved infrastructure facilities to cope with the growing needs of the cities in the future.

Mr Premadasa is also interested in the provision of facilities to meet any disaster and hazards in these areas in the future. All reconstruction projects will be geared to ensure functional efficiency. All redevelopment activities within these areas will be monitored by the UDA in collaboration with the municipal councils and urban councils to ensure its development on modern lines.

Official Reports on Situation in Jaffna

BK081558 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The deputy inspector general of Northern Range, (W.B. Rajaguru), said that the thinking of the ordinary people living in Jaffna on terrorists is now changing. According to Mr (Rajaguru),the people who have already arrived in Jaffna have said that they will not benefit by staying there. Referring to the food situation in Jaffna, he said essentials including rice, sugar and dal [pulses] are available in plenty. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the CWE said that 10 truckloads of essential food items have already left for Jaffna.

Announcement on Curfew in 9 Administrative Districts

BK091359 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The curfew will be reimposed today at 2200 in the administrative districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, Kagalla, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, and Ratnapura, and will be relaxed at 0400 tomorrow. It will be reimposed tomorrow at 2200 in these district and will be relaxed at 0400 on Thursday, 11 August. There will be no curfew in the other districts.

Supreme Defense Council Discusses War Issues 9 Aug

LD092244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council met tonight under the chairmanship of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. The meeting was held with the participation of Messrs Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Defense Minister Colonel Salimi; and Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. It also was attended by Messrs Velayati, minister of foreign affairs; Minister Rafiqdust; Shamkhani, deputy minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Hasan Ruhani, head of the Majlis Defense Commission; Kharrazi, supervisor of the war publicity staff headquarters; and Nazaran, secretary of the Supreme Defense Council.

Reviewing the situation on the warfronts, discussions and talks were held on future war plans and certain decisions were adopted.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani in an interview with our correspondent explained the issues raised during the meeting.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments

LD092245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, as you were informed earlier in this newscast, at the conclusion of the Supreme Defense Council meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative at the Council, in an interview with our correspondent, explained the issues discussed at the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Supreme Defense Council met tonight. Would you please tell us what issues were discussed at this meeting and what decisions were made?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At the session, we heard a report from the responsible military authorities on the o[illegible]some of the two phases of the Val-Fajr II and of the Val-Fajr III operations. The report was reviewed and some decisions, which should have been made about the war, were made. There were some other tasks about the issues (?related) to the forces, bases and other places; and we made some decisions.

[Question] The Turkish mass media recently raised some issues in connection with the war; would you please explain the position of the Islamic Republic vis-a-vis this issue?

[Answer] I am not aware of anything that they might have said which is related to us. They said something, for instance, asking the two warring sides to respect the interests of the neighboring countries. We ourselves have always paid attention to this issue and we have even so far tried to avoid any harm to the countries south of the Persian Gulf, which in one way or another are involved in the war. And naturally, Turkey is not bothering us and has extensive relations with us and we do not think that we are a threat to Turkey's interests in the region. [end recording]

Khomeyni Receives President Khamene'i 9 August

LD091121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and conferred with him. The president and the chief of the Supreme Defense Council briefed the imam on current affairs of the country, the latest events and developments on the warfront, and the recent victories by the Islamic combatants. The chief of the Supreme Defense Council also handed the commander in chief a written report about the problems of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic.

Khamene'i Interview

LD091222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, this morning inspected the headquarters of the Join. Chiefs of Staff.

Following his inspection tour, Khamene'i gave an interview to our correspondent and answered questions relating to his meeting with Imam Khomeyni and war matters:

[Begin recording] [Question] You were received in audience by his eminence the imam. Could you tell us what matters were discussed at the meeting?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I briefed the imam on certain matters of state, particularly a detailed report on the Armed Forces. This was a written report. Of course, matters concerning the Armed Forces are of interest to the imam who wants to be informed. Periodically such reports are submitted to the imam. Certain matters relating to universities were also discussed with him.

[Question] You have just had an inspection tour of the headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Could you tell us the purpose of the visit?

[Khamene'i] The visit had two aims. One was to see up close what is happening there. Of course, the esteemed chief of staff was interested in our paying a visit to the headquarters. In addition, I was interested in meeting headquarters personnel and thanking them for their efforts. I also wanted to point out to them matters that I deem important.

[Question] In the light of the remarks made by the imam of the nation that the whole Iranian nation should strive to destroy the Saddam regime, your excellency, as the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, what are your views on the participation of youths in the fighting?

[Khamene'i] I believe this is a duty to which our people have often responded positively. Even now, if you go to the fronts, you will see the plains and deserts brimming with the selfless youths making sacrifices and doing their duty to defend their revolution, their religion, their honor, and their homeland. Fortunately, these sacrifices have also made a favorable impact. That is, we have been able to show the world that ours is a steadfast, militant, and determined nation. On the fronts, the presence of the people has resulted in frequent blows to the aggressive Iraqi Army. Fortunately, we have achieved several victories in the Val-Fajr II and III operations. We made advances yesterday and today, the reports of which have been announced to the people and will continue to be announced. We have had many victories. This is one of the blessings resulting from the people's presence at the front. [end recording]

IRNA Reports on President's Joint Staff Visit

LD092117 Tehran IRNA in English 2014 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug 9, IRNA — Islamic Republic President 'Ali Khamene'i who is also the chief of the Supreme Defence Council in a meeting with military officials today at the Joint Staff headquarters reviewed the issues and problems of the Armed Forces. Pointing to the vital role of the Armed Forces in upholding the ideals of the Islamic revolution and endeavouring towards self-sufficiency free of foreign aid in production of equipment he said that the Armed Forces in the Islamic society plays a vital role worthy of attention.

Present at this meeting were General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff, Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni, commander of the Naval Force, and other military commanders and heads of the political ideological departments of the Armed Forces.

President Khamene'i, addressing participants at the meeting, said that during the past regime efforts were made to keep the Armed Forces aloof from the Islamic ideals and they were not given any opportunity to get acquainted with Islamic tenets but he added, now that you have been acquainted with Islam, must venture to familiarise yourselves with even more Islamic principles.

Commenting on the fall of Hajj 'Umran garrison of Iraq, and the disgraceful defeat of the crumbling Iraqi forces in the Val-Fajr-III theatre, in Mehran region, the president asked how could an army fully equipped be defeated, further saying because they lack faith. He said it is because the Islamic nation is equipped with faith that it brought the U.S. and its allies down to their knees.

President Khamene'i in another part of his speech reiterated the need for endeavoring to attain self-sufficiency.

He noted that "we are indebted to the nation and must make the utmost use of the minimum resources since the national [word indistinct] belongs to 40 million people and nothing should be wasted, no time spent [word indistinct], nor fruitless techniques adopted in the Joint Staff headquarters of the Armed Forces.

Command Headquarters Issues Communique No 7

LD091142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Communique No 7 of An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In their operations last night, Islam's mighty forces advanced toward enemy positions in the region north of Mehran. They liberated heights 341 and 390 and the slopes of 325, which are of particular strategic importance. One battalion of the 417th Brigade and two commando battalions of the Zionist enemy were completely wiped out.

In these operations, more than 1,000 of Baghdad's hapless forces were killed or wounded. A large number of troops were taken prisoner by the forces of Islam. So far, 256 POW's have been transferred behind the lines, including several commanders, 14 officers, and 50 NCO's.

In this region, the guardians of the school of the Koran and soldiers of the imam of the age, my God hasten his glad advent, captured intact large quantities of arms and equipment, including several tanks and armored personnel carriers, 10 vehicles, 35 mortars, several antiaircraft guns, artillery pieces, machineguns, more than 1,000 light arms, considerable quantities of communications equipment and very large quantities of ammunition.

Last night and today, on the operational axis south of Mehran, the infidel-fighting warriors of Islam, with their extraordinary and rare courage and steadfastness, severely crushed the Zionist enemy and destroyed a large part of the Saddamists' armor. In these victorious operations, hundreds of enemy forces were killed or wounded and a large number of their tanks, armored personnel carriers, and vehicles were set ablaze. The shaky forces of the Zionist Baghdad regime, in the wake of the courageous operations by our monotheistic forces, took flight and fled from the operational theater.

Islam's combatants continue their relentless battle. While consolidating the objectives gained, they are keeping the enemy under their fierce fire.

[Signed] An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, center of joint operation of the Armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,421

LD091744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,421 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His Exalted Name. The brave combatants of Islam began the second phase of the Val-Fajr III operations at 0300 today and with the succor of Almighty God they succeeded in bringing to their knees the Ba'thist forces stationed in the Zalu

Ab heights, and also succeeded in fully capturing and liberating three strategic heights in the north of the Mehran sector. Also, our combative forces, while annihilating the Saddamist forces in this sector, captured 302 of the mercenaries as prisoners. This group, included 16 officers, 50 NCO's, and 206 soldiers. The task of evacuating the arms, equipment, and ammunition captured by the sons of the Koran continues.

Today several enemy counterattacks were powerfully repulsed in this region. The forces of Islam also fiercely clashed with the enemy forces in the south and southwest of Mehran. The enemy forces included tank and mechanized units, and the combatants of Islam continue crushing the Iraqi troops and destroying their equipment.

After the recent offensives in the Val-Fajr II operational sector, our forces are positioned in all the liberated regions and while consolidating their own positions neutralized the enemy activities by opening intense fire.

The exchange of artillery and mortar fire between our forces and the enemy continued yesterday on the southern fronts. During this period, our combative units repulsed the reconnaissance and ambush operations of the enemy in the Bijeliyeh and Angizeh regions up to the northern pars of Fakhreh. Our combative units also neutralized the activities of the Saddamist infantry troops in the east and southeast of Fakhreh and by opening heavy artillery fire halted enemy engineering activities along the southern fronts.

At 0800 yesterday morning, two MiG planes of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces attacked Salehabad village in the Ilam region. As a result of this attack, one inhabitant was martyred and two were wounded. Also between 1250 and 1830 yesterday, the wicked Saddamist mercenaries opened artillery fire on the residential areas of Sar Dasht. As a result, three Muslim inhabitants were martyred and three were wounded while several residential units of the city were damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ground Forces, Guards Corps Commanders Discuss War

LD091945 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in an interview with IRNA today, expounded the outcome of the Val-Fajr II and Val-Fajr III operations.

Referring to the victorious outcome of the Val-Fajr II and III operations, Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, said: The Val-Fajr operations started with the aim of bringing the dawn of Islam to Iraq and the world. He added: These operations are firmly based on defending Islam and the Islamic country of Iran. Although we are advancing kilometers inside Iraqi territory, our final objective is to defend the Islamic Revolution vis-a-vis the conspiracies of the global arrogance and the puppet regime of Iraq. We are continuing the war under the same general policy in the defense of the revolution and the Islamic country.

In connection with the victories gained during the Val-Fajr II oeprations, he stated: In the course of these operations, more than 200 square km of Iraqi territory and a large number of hamlets were liberated, while links between the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and the counterrevolution along the Arbil-Piranshahr axis and between the counterrevolutionaries north and south of Mahabad were cut off. The combatants of Islam captured a large amount of equipment as booty, including sophisticated radar, which had been set up to control the fire trajectory of the Ba'thist mercenaries' artillery and mortars. The implementation of these operations in this region of the country greatly lowered the morale of the enemy forces.

Referring to the objectives of the victorious Val-Fajr III operations in the Mehran region, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said: These operations were carried out to liberate Mehran, to distance the Mehran-Ilam and Mehran-Dehloran highways from direct fire of the Iraqi mercenaries, and to cleanse the heights in the north of Mehran city from the filth of the presence of the Saddamists. Our mighty warriors achieved all these objectives early after the start of the offensive, while on some of the axes our forces were able to take up positions inside Iraqi territory because the enemy had fled.

He added: Following a defeat in these operations, the enemy first used its 12th Division and launched a counteroffensive to recapture the liberated regions in the Mehran sector, but after suffering heavy losses and casualties, the enemy retreated. By gathering his forces from the Siumar, 'Ammarah, and Al-Basra axes, the enemy deployed about two reinforced divisions and one reserve division in this sector and launched fierce counter offensives against our forces in the Val-Fajr III operational sector. Thanks to the brave and valiant resistance of the mighty tribesmen of the Ilam region and to the steadfastness of the mobilization and other combative forces, the enemy was forced to flee after suffering hundreds of dead and losing a large number of destroyed tanks and personnel carriers. The corpses of Saddam's Zionist mercenaries and the burned wreckage of tanks are scattered in the valleys and deserts of the operational sector.

He continued: Following these disgraceful defeats, the enemy, to cover up the defeat of his forces, launched a massive propaganda campaign, claiming to have surrounded Mehran, but thanks to the remarkable victories gained by the forces of Islam, the enemy is now forced to confess to the great defeat it has suffered.

Col Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, discussing the results of the second phase of the Val-Fajr III operations and the remarkable victories scored by Islam's intrepid troops during these operations, said: During this phase of the operations, there were certain bottlenecks in which Islam's combatants were situated, and although the aggressive enemy several times deployed more forces and military equipment, nevertheless, thanks to divine grace, our combatants last night succeeded in

liberating hills no 341 and 390 and the foot of hill no 325 and in destroying enemy forces in this region.

He added: According to the latest confirmed reports, 16 officers, 50 NCO's, and 236 captured Iraqi soldiers have been moved to the rear, while over 400 enemy servicemen have been killed and hundreds have been wounded. He also said: Our combatants who carried out these victorious operations with extremely light casualties put an end to Saddam's idle boasting and his efforts to repair the ramshackle prestige of his forces.

The Ground Forces commander, with regard to the boldness and courage of the monotheistic and heroic army during last night's operations, said: Today is the 15th day of our battle on this front and our combatants' fearlessness and audaciousness are not confined to last night's operations alone. Islam's army is fighting day and night and is dealing its mortal blows at the abject enemy. Our combatants have succeeded in liberating and mopping up yet another important area.

Col Sayyad-Shirazi, in reply to a question on the strategic importance of the liberated heights and regions for our forces, said: The heights situated south and north of Mehran provide our combatants with a great advantage--they will have better observation and will be able to fire deep inside enemy soil, thus enabling us to safeguard most of the area from enemy artillery fire. He added: The enemy, by virtue of his previous positions, kept the Salehabad-Mehran-Dehloran highway and also the city of Mehran under fire, but now the Iraqi aggressors have less such opportunities at their disposal and the advantage is now ours. This position is excellent for a day when our combatants want to use it to deal a mortal blow to the enemy in order to achieve greater aims. Therefore, the operations carried out — apart from giving us these advantages — have brought about the downfall of a good part of the enemy's forces, and much booty has fallen into the hands of Islam's combatants, which in turn has caused the Iraqi Ba'thist army to become even more dejected.

The Ground Forces commander, with regard to the excellent preparations made by Islam's combatants during last night's operations said: As a result of the experience gained by our combatants in their recent battles — praise be to God — they had and have at their disposal a special supply system whereby whether under artillery fire, pressure from enemy aircraft, or in mountainous or open terrain, our combatants are extremely well supplied. He added: The system is mostly secured by the popular forces, whereby our combatant Islamic nation is placing the necessary facilities at our disposal; the operations carried out last night enjoyed these capabilities and the bounties thereby placed at our disposal by God Almighty.

With regard to the present situation of the army of Islam on the battlefronts, Col Sayyad-Shirazi said: Our combatants, armed with happiness and jubilation — of course not the type speaking of conceit because of the victory achieved, but happiness and jubilation because of the succor graciously granted to them by God Almighty — are continuing their defense of the revolution and the Islamic homeland. He said: The fighting combatants of the army of Islam are already proudly deployed in their trenches and are ready to carry out the plans and later phases of the operations.

Official Says Iraqis Used 'Poisonous Bombs'

GF091810 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA — Dr Kamal Kharrazi, the head of the war information headquarters, again warned international organisations against a probable major Iraqi attack against Iranian civilians living in the war stricken provinces of the country.

Dr. Kharrazi said that in the past the Iraqi regime has launched severe attacks against Iranian civilians after every defeat in the battlefront such as the numerous missile attacks against Dezful.

He said the Iraqi regime had considered the recent offensives of the Islamic forces to be very important and that it has tried very hard to lessen the importance of the victories of the Iranian Muslim combatants. He said the harsh defeats of the Iraqi forces in the recent battles had increased the possibility of an attack against civilians.

Speaking to IRNA, Dr. Kharrazi also said that the Iraqi forces had dropped poisonous bombs in the northern operations region of Val Fajr-2 and that 13 Iranians combatants had been hospitalised as a result of this. He said the bombs were so strong that the people in the Iranian border town of Piranshahr had inhailed the poison many kilometers away from the battlefront inside Iraq's Hajj 'Umran area.

This is another crime of the inhuman Iraqi regime which has been condemned in the context of international law.

While stressing that the Islamic Republic would continue the war until the achievement of victory, he called on international organisations and freedom-seeking personalities to act according to their utmost capacity to prevent Iraqi war crimes against Iran.

President Emphasizes 'Neither East Nor West' Policy

LD091137 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, aug 9, IRNA —President 'Ali Khamene'i Monday stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran had now become an iron fist punching in the mouth of the world's biggest and most powerful regimes.

Speaking to a gathering of PTT [Post, Telegraph, and Telephone] Ministry heads of Imam Khomeyni's relief committee, and a number of other officials, the president noted that there was a thorough coordination between the East and the West against the Islamic Republic. But, he added, in spite of all such conspiracies Iran had so far preserved its position and also achieved great victories in the fronts of the Iraqi imposed war.

Referring to the active presence of the Islamic Republic in the world arena, President Khamene'i said that the Foreign Ministry had worked in the best possible way to the extent that the world was no more indifferent towards Iran's presence.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was constantly inflicting blows upon the usurper Zionist regime and at the same time was feeling

pain due to sufferings of Muslims in Asia and Africa, the president added.

Emphasising Iran's policy of neither West nor East, the president said that in the same manner the Islamic Republic condemned usurpers of Palestine, it would denounce occupiers of Afghanistan.

He stressed that now it was not easy for enemies to remove a new born system such as the Islamic Republic of Iran since the world today was looking at it as a clear-sighted country.

President Khamene'i noted that there were nations and governments throughout the world which were following Imam Khomeyni as a personality resisting against all adverse happenings.

Pointing to the ever-increasing defection of Iraqi forces, the president said that what made Iraqis to flee was the lack of reliance on their government, adding that the only means for numerous victories that Iran had so far achieved was the unity of expression and cooperation of the people. All the Iranian strata had been united through the means of faith in Almighty God in the revolution and in its great revolution, President Khamene'i said.

Chief of General State Security Appointed

LD091745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] By a decree issued by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, Colonel Seyyed Ebrahim Hejazi has been appointed chief of general state security.

Soviets Reportedly Using Napalm in Afghanistan

GF091858 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] In an operation in Afghanistan's northern province of Helmend yesterday, Muslim Afghan revolutionaries downed a fighter aircraft belonging to the occupationist Soviet troops.

After their consecutive defeats by the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries, the Soviet forces bombarded the (Vedat) region of the helmend Province with napalm bombs. Numerous Muslims people in the region were either martyred or wounded as a result of the incident.